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This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed December 16, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Objection to the Claims

Claim 7 was objected to because of an informality cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, claim 7 has been amended to overcome the objection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the objection of claim 7 to be withdrawn.

For similar reasons, claims 2-3 and 9 have been amended to correct informalities attributed to prior amendments made in respective independent claims.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-11 and 18-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Shteyn* (U.S. Patent 6,782,253 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

a. Claims 1-6

As provided in independent claim 1, Applicants claim:

A method of discovering local devices or services comprising:
associating at least one unique identifier with at least one location;

associating one or more device with said at least one unique identifier based upon a unique identifier acquired by each device at a location associated with the unique identifier;

providing an indication of said one or more device or service that are associated with said at least one unique identifier, such that a first device associated with a first unique identifier is made aware of other devices or services that are available for use and are associated with the first unique identifier.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is allowable for at least the reason that *Shteyn* does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least "associating one or more device with said at least one unique identifier based upon a unique identifier acquired by each device at a location associated with the unique identifier" and/or "providing an indication of said one or more device or service that are

associated with said at least one unique identifier, such that a first device associated with a first unique identifier is made aware of other devices or services that are available for use and are associated with the first unique identifier," as recited and emphasized above in claim 1.

Rather, *Shteyn* appears to disclose at most a system of beacons that transmit facilitation signals. The beacons, as such, do not acquire a unique identifier, as claimed. The Office Action alleges that this feature is disclosed by a cell phone receiving the facilitation signal transmitted by a beacon. Office Action, page 3. By this reasoning, the Office Action is associating the cell phone with "one or more device" from the claim. However, in examining another portion of the claim, it states the step of "providing an indication of said one or more device or service that are associated with said at least one unique identifier, such that a first device associated with a first unique identifier is made aware of other devices or services that are available for use and are associated with the first unique identifier." (Emphasis added). By the aforementioned reasoning, for the claim to be anticipated, *Shteyn* would have to disclose that the cell phone [that received the facilitation signal] is provided in an indication such that another device also associated with the same unique identifier is made aware of the cell phone which is available for use. But this is not disclosed.

Rather, the Office Action cites a portion of the *Shteyn* reference describing a "guide [that] contains indications of beacon-associated services." Office Action, page 3. However, as previously mentioned, beacons in *Shteyn* do not seemingly acquire a unique identifier at a location associated with the unique identifier, as described in the claim.

As such, *Shteyn* does not teach or suggest at least the steps of "associating one or more device with said at least one unique identifier based upon a unique identifier acquired by each device at a location associated with the unique identifier" and "providing an indication of said one or more device or service that are associated with said at least one unique identifier, such that a first device associated with a first unique identifier is made aware of other devices [which also acquired a unique identifier] or services that are available for use and are associated with the first unique identifier." Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2-6 (which depend from claim 1) are allowable over *Shteyn*, for at least that reason.

Additionally and notwithstanding the foregoing reasons for the allowability of claims 2-6, these dependent claims recite further features/steps and/or combinations of features/steps (as is apparent by examination of the claims themselves) that are patentably distinct from the cited art of record. Hence, there are other reasons why these dependent claims are allowable.

b. Claims 7-8

As provided in independent claim 7, Applicants claim:

One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to:

associate at least one unique identifier with at least one location;

associate one or more device with said at least one unique identifier based upon a unique identifier acquired by each device at a location associated with the unique identifier; and

provide an indication of said one or more device or service that are associated with said at least one unique identifier by:

receiving a message containing a first unique identifier;

ascertaining said one or more device or service currently available for use to a sender of the message based upon said first unique identifier; and

replying to the sender of the message with a list of available devices or services for a location corresponding to said first unique identifier.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7 is allowable for at least the reason that *Shteyn* does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least "associate one or more device with said at least one unique identifier based upon a unique identifier acquired by each device at a location associated with the unique identifier" and/or "provide an indication of said one or more device or service that are associated with said at least one unique identifier by: receiving a message containing a first unique identifier; ascertaining said one or more device or service currently available for use to a sender of the message based upon said first unique identifier; and replying to the sender of the message with a list of available devices or services for a location corresponding to said first unique identifier," as recited and emphasized above in claim 7.

Rather, *Shteyn* appears to disclose at most a system of beacons that transmit facilitation signals. The beacons, as such, do not acquire a unique identifier, as claimed. The Office Action alleges that this feature is disclosed by a cell phone receiving the facilitation signal transmitted by a beacon. Office Action, page 3. By this reasoning, the Office Action is associating the cell phone with "one or more device" from the claim. However, in examining another portion of the claim, it states the step of "providing an indication of said one or more device or service that are associated with said at least one unique identifier by . . . ascertaining said one or more device or service currently available for use to a sender of the message based upon said first unique identifier; and replying to the sender of the message with a list of available devices or services for a location corresponding to said first unique identifier." (Emphasis added). By the aforementioned reasoning, for the claim to be anticipated, *Shteyn* would have to disclose that the cell phone [that received the facilitation signal] is provided in an indication such that another device also associated with the same unique identifier is made aware of the cell phone which is available for use by another user or "sender" using the claim language. But, this is not disclosed or taught by *Shteyn*.

In making its rejection, the Office Action cites a portion of the *Shteyn* reference describing a "guide [that] contains indications of beacon-associated services." Office Action, page 5. However, as previously mentioned, beacons, as taught by *Shteyn*, do not seemingly acquire a unique identifier at a location associated with the unique identifier, as described in the claim.

As such, *Shteyn* does not teach or suggest at least the features to "associate one or more device with said at least one unique identifier based upon a unique identifier acquired by each device at a location associated with the unique identifier" and/or "provide an indication of said one or more device or service that are associated with said at least one unique identifier by: receiving a message containing a first unique identifier; ascertaining said one or more device or service currently available for use to a sender of the message based upon said first unique identifier; and replying to the sender of the message with a list of available devices or services for a location corresponding to said first unique identifier," as recited in the claim.

Therefore, *Shteyn* fails to disclose all of the features of claim 7. Accordingly, claim 7 and claim 8 (which depends therefrom) are allowable over *Shteyn*, for at least that reason.

c. Claims 9-11

As provided in independent claim 9, Applicants claim:

A method of discovering local devices or services comprising:
associating multiple unique identifiers with multiple related locations, each related location having a unique identifier;

receiving a report that a device has acquired a unique identifier corresponding to particular location, the device being located at the particular location;

associating one or more device with one or more of the unique identifiers based on reports received from said one or more device, the one or more device being accessible from a location that corresponds to a unique identifier;

receiving a message from a client device that contains a unique identifier of one or more of the locations;

ascertaining from said unique identifier any devices or services that are associated with a location that corresponds to said unique identifier; and

replying to said client device with a list of available devices or services for the location, wherein said available devices on the list reported acquisition of said unique identifier.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 9 is allowable for at least the reason that *Shteyn* does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least "receiving a report that a device has acquired a unique identifier corresponding to particular location, the device being located at the particular location," "receiving a message from a client device that contains a unique identifier of one or more of the locations," "ascertaining from said unique identifier any devices or services that are associated with a location that corresponds to said unique identifier," and "replying to said client device with a list of available devices or services for the location, wherein said available devices on the list reported acquisition of said unique identifier," as recited and emphasized above in claim 9.

Rather, *Shteyn* appears to disclose at most a system of beacons that transmit facilitation signals. The beacons, as such, do not acquire a unique identifier, as

claimed. The Office Action alleges that this feature is disclosed by a mobile phone receiving the facilitation signal transmitted by a beacon. Office Action, page 7. By this reasoning, the Office Action is associating the mobile phone with a "device" from the claim. However, in examining another portion of the claim, it features the steps of "ascertaining from said unique identifier any devices or services that are associated with a location that corresponds to said unique identifier" and "replying to said client device with a list of available devices or services for the location, wherein said available devices on the list reported acquisition of said unique identifier," where said client device sent a message containing the unique identifier.

By the aforementioned reasoning, for the claim to be anticipated, *Shteyn* would have to disclose that the mobile phone [that received the facilitation signal] is provided in a reply to a sender of devices, such as the mobile phone, that reported acquisition of the unique identifier. But, this is not disclosed or taught by *Shteyn*.

In making its rejection, the Office Action cites a portion of the *Shteyn* reference describing a "guide [that] contains indications of beacon-associated services." Office Action, page 8. However, as previously mentioned, beacons, as taught by *Shteyn*, do not seemingly acquire a unique identifier at a location associated with the unique identifier, as described in the claim.

As such, *Shteyn* does not teach or suggest at least the steps of "receiving a report that a device has acquired a unique identifier corresponding to particular location, the device being located at the particular location," "receiving a message from a client device that contains a unique identifier of one or more of the locations," "ascertaining from said unique identifier any devices or services that are associated with a location that corresponds to said unique identifier," and "replying to said client device with a list of available devices or services for the location, wherein said available devices on the list reported acquisition of said unique identifier," as recited in the claim.

Therefore, *Shteyn* fails to disclose all of the features of claim 9. Accordingly, claim 9 and claims 10-11 (which depend from claim 9) are allowable over *Shteyn*, for at least that reason.

d. Claims 18-23

As provided in independent claim 18, Applicants claim:

A method of discovering local devices comprising:

acquiring a unique identifier that is associated with a location for which one or more corresponding devices or services are desired to be discovered;

sending a message containing the unique identifier over a network and to an entity from which the devices or services can be discovered; and

receiving a reply from the entity, the reply containing a list of available devices or services for the location, wherein the available devices acquired the unique identifier at the location and reported acquisition of the unique identifier to the entity.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 18 is allowable for at least the reason that *Shteyn* does not disclose, teach, or suggest at least "acquiring a unique identifier that is associated with a location for which one or more corresponding devices or services are desired to be discovered," "sending a message containing the unique identifier over a network and to an entity from which the devices or services can be discovered," and "receiving a reply from the entity, the reply containing a list of available devices or services for the location, wherein the available devices acquired the unique identifier at the location and reported acquisition of the unique identifier to the entity," as recited and emphasized above in claim 18.

Rather, *Shteyn* appears to disclose at most a system of beacons that transmit facilitation signals. The beacons, as such, do not acquire a unique identifier, as claimed. The Office Action alleges that this feature is disclosed by a mobile phone receiving the facilitation signal transmitted by a beacon. Office Action, page 8. However, in examining another portion of the claim, it features the steps of "sending a message containing the unique identifier over a network and to an entity from which the devices or services can be discovered," and "receiving a reply from the entity, the reply containing a list of available devices or services for the location, wherein the available devices acquired the unique identifier at the location and reported acquisition of the unique identifier to the entity.

By the aforementioned reasoning, for the claim to be anticipated, *Shteyn* would have to disclose that the mobile phone [that received the facilitation signal] is provided in a reply with other available devices for the current location, where each

device reported acquisition of the unique identifier to the entity. But, this is not disclosed or taught by *Shteyn*.

In making its rejection, the Office Action cites a portion of the *Shteyn* reference describing a "guide [that] contains indications of beacon-associated services." Office Action, page 9. However, as previously mentioned, beacons, as taught by *Shteyn*, do not seemingly acquire a unique identifier at a location associated with the unique identifier, as described in the claim.

As such, *Shteyn* does not teach or suggest at least the steps of "'acquiring a unique identifier that is associated with a location for which one or more corresponding devices or services are desired to be discovered," "sending a message containing the unique identifier over a network and to an entity from which the devices or services can be discovered," and "receiving a reply from the entity, the reply containing a list of available devices or services for the location, wherein the available devices acquired the unique identifier at the location and reported acquisition of the unique identifier to the entity," as recited in the claim.

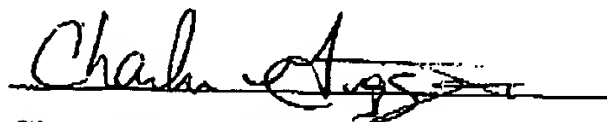
Therefore, *Shteyn* fails to disclose all of the features of claim 18. Accordingly, claim 18 and claims 19-21 (which depend therefrom) are allowable over *Shteyn*, for at least that reason.

Likewise, claims 22-23 are allowable for similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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